PAPER NO. I

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

FORTY FIFTH SESSION

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A G E N D A

BUSINESS SESSION

1ST FEBRUARY, 1977

MYSORE

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INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION
45TH SESSION - 1977

A G E N D A

I. Motion of Condolence

The Members of the Commission are aware of the sad loss to the world of history as well as to the Commission by the demise of our very distinguished and noted historians who had been associated with this Commission at one time or the other namely - (i) Nawab Ali Yawar Jang, Governor of Maharashtra and ex-Professor of History, Osmania University, Hyderabad, (ii) ~~Prof. Holden Furber, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.~~, (iii) Dr. Domingo Abella, Director, Bureau of Records Management, Philippine, (iv) Prof. Sri Ram Sharma, ex-Principal of D.A.V. College, Solapur and Chandigarh and (v) Prof. Narasimha Rao, Head of the Department of History, Osmania University.

Resolution: "The Members of the Indian Historical Records Commission assembled at Mysore for the 45th Session of the Commission deeply mourn the death of Nawab Ali Yawar Jang, ~~Prof. Holden Furber~~, Dr. Domingo Abella, Prof. Sri Ram Sharma, Prof. Narasimha Rao and resolve that sincere condolences of the Commission be conveyed to the next of their kin."

II. Discussion on Secretary's Report

III. Review of action on previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Commission

(Please see Pp. 13)

IV. Views of the Standing Committee on the Report of the Committee on Record Management

In the general discussion that took place on the Report the Members agreed with most of the recommendations made by the Committee but they were not in favour of changing the basic structure of the Commission. Moreover, they felt that most of the functions proposed to be assigned to the National Archival Council could very well be performed by the Standing Committee. They, however, recommended that the Report may be discussed at the next Session of the Commission before any final decision is taken on various recommendations made by the Committee.

V. RESOLUTIONS BY THE MEMBERS

A. Acquisition of papers relating to freedom movements in Saurashtra

(1) Resolution by Professor B.K.Dharaiya

"It is resolved that political leaders, ex-Diwan and retired officers of Saurashtra, be approached and requested to give the copies of documents with them with regards to freedom movements in Saurashtra to the Indian Historical Records Commission. They may also be requested to furnish the information about the location of such other documents. It is further resolved that some Agency or Committee may be set up by the Commission to request the persons concerned to give these documents or their copies to the Commission."

Explanatory Notes:

While doing research on Freedom Movements in Saurashtra (1920-1948) I had an opportunity to meet some political leaders, ex-Diwans and retired officers of the States in Saurashtra. They have some valuable manuscripts and documents with them in connection with the political activities and freedom movements in Saurashtra. Most of them are still unpublished. They can also furnish the details of whereabouts of such other documents.

If these documents are procured by the Commission, very valuable historical information about the political activities and freedom movements in Saurashtra may be available. These documents will also throw new light on the relations of the Kings with the British Government on one hand and their relations with their people on the other hand.

Standing Committee's views:

The Indian Historical Records Commission is not a repository of records. So the question of depositing the records with the Commission does not arise. A similar resolution was moved at the 44th Session of the Commission. The Commission was of the opinion that in the absence of appropriate legislation pursuation was the only available method and merely passing a resolution would not be of much help. So the resolution was dropped.

The State Archives concerned should, therefore, make an earnest effort to locate and to acquire such records through its Regional Records Survey Committee, as is being done by the other State Archives.

The Committee suggested that the following sentence might be added at the end of the resolution forwarded by Prof. R.K. Dharaiya:

> "Government of India is seized of this problem and a comprehensive action is being planned."

E. Introduction of correspondence course of training in Archives Administration.

(2) Resolution by Government of Andhra Pradesh

> "Resolved to start correspondence course of Diploma in Archives-Keeping."

Explanatory Note:

In order to develop Archives-Keeping consciousness among the general public it is suggested to start a correspondence course of the diploma in Archives-Keeping. It will help the persons working on research projects to acquire the knowledge and the diploma without hindrance in their research work. Written and practical examinations can be held at certain Archives centres suitable to the regions.

Standing Committee's views:

A similar resolution(No.VII) was passed at the 43rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission. The proposal has since been approved and sanctioned by the Government of India, and will be implemented through the new Abhilekh Prashikshan Sansthan.

C. Residential accommodation for research scholars.

(3) Resolution by Government of Andhra Pradesh

"Resolved to provide lodging facilities for bonafide Research scholars at Archival and Research Institutions."

Explanatory Note:

It is suggested that lodging facilities should be provided to bonafide Research Scholars at the Archival and Research Institutions which will save time and money of the Research Scholars. It would also help the scholars to complete their research early.

Standing Committee's views:

This is certainly very desirable. A similar resolution was passed at the 41st Session of the Commission(Resolution No.XV). A meeting of the group of officers set up by the Department of Culture, Government of India, to examine the question of providing suitable accommodation at economical rates for

scholars coming from outside Delhi and wanting to work in the National Archives of India and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi was held on 1st December 1975. The "group" felt that the Sapru House Hostel offered the best available accommodation, particularly in view of the Central location and reasonable rates of rent. The bonafide research scholars can avail themselves of Sapru House Hostel accommodation at reasonable rates. Five research scholars have been provided accommodation facilities there during the year 1976.

* The State Archives Departments should make their own arrangements for accommodation for the researchers.

D. Proper maintenance of records in muffassil office

(4) Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha.

"Resolved that State Governments be requested to pay increasing attention towards the proper upkeep and repair of records lying in record rooms of the offices of Divisional Commissioners, Collectors/Deputy Commissioner, District Judges etc. and also towards the improvement of working conditions in such repositories so that records may be properly maintained and any administrator, archivist or research scholars should feel at home while working in such places. Financial provisions for the maintenance of records should be increased to bring a proper balance between the expenditure on the maintenance of records and the income derived from the supply of the copies of records."

Explanatory Note:

In spite of the fact that almost all the State Governments have a centralised archival organisation at State level and in some cases their branches at regional basis, large number of records are still lying in a

decentralized manner in the record rooms of the record creating agencies themselves which need immediate transfer to the archival centres. In the muffassil offices little attention is paid towards the proper maintenance of such records and they are treated as junks dumped in godowns or in libos in complete ignorance of the fact that they are paper jewels of invaluable administrative and historical importance. When the expenditure on maintenance of records is compared with the revenue derived from the supply of the copies of such records, it hardly comes to a proper balance. Barring a few, working conditions in such muffassil offices also is not upto the mark. They are in very rare cases properly ventilated and furnished with proper light and fan fittings. In short the atmosphere of the typical munshikhanas of the yore still persists. Those who go there in connection with their advance academic research projects face a lot of difficulties in carrying on their work. It is rather a high time that our State Governments should pay increasing attention to give a proper look to their muffassil record repositories. But nothing can be achieved unless due financial allocations for the maintenance of records is increased. Muffassil offices yield a lot of revenue to the Government and there should be no hesitation in maintaining a satisfactory balance between income derived and expenditure made on records.

Standing Committee's views:

The resolution certainly deserves support and endorsement. A big step towards achieving the objective of this resolution would be for each State to pass an Archival Policy Resolution as recommended earlier in Resolution IV and XII of 39th and 40th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission respectively.

A central legislation in consultation with the States is under the consideration of the Government of India.

E. Publication of a Bulletin of Research Theses and Dissertations

(5) Resolution by Shri O.P. Bhatnagar:

"Resolved that a report containing names of researchers, subjects of research on Modern Indian History, names of Universities where the thesis was submitted, and the date and particulars of the publication of the thesis be published annually by the National Archives. The report should cover work done on Modern Indian History in all parts of the world."

Explanatory Note:

In view of the fact that considerable amount of research work is being done and published in all parts of the world. Scholars will be properly informed about the individual scholar's work as well as material available in different archives.

The National Archives should base its information on the data supplied by various archives in India and other parts of the world. Only the work completed and published need be excluded in the report, various archives can easily keep track of such kind of research work done.

If admissible the publication should be a priced one.

Standing Committee's views:

A Bulletin of Research Theses and Dissertations is already being brought out by the National Archives of India for the last many years. The Bulletin contains more or less the same information as mentioned in the resolution. These are distributed free of cost among the Universities, Learned Institutions, State Archives, Post-graduate Colleges of Indian Universities and Institutions, and Libraries abroad.

F. Creation of Archives Offices in the Universities

(6) Resolution by Shri F.M. Hassnain

"Resolved that the Universities should organise Archival Cells for preserving their records on scientific lines. It is further recommended that necessary assistance may be obtained from the University Grants Commission in this behalf."

Explanatory Note:

Most of the Universities in the country do not have well organised record offices and important records, data and statistics are left at the mercy of the untrained clerks with the result that at the time of requisition for such documents, the students and the candidates have to suffer. As such, it may be made binding upon all the Universities to organise their record offices on scientific lines to be managed by trained archivists. Previous resolutions in this regard have not borne tangible results.

Standing Committee's views:

Two similar resolutions were moved at the last Session (44th). The Chairman of the Session observed that a similar resolution /Resolution XIV of the 38th Session, (1967)_7 was passed earlier. It was hoped that the University Professors who were assembled there would take personal interest in this matter and ask for necessary funds from the University Grants Commission and advice from the National Archives of India. The resolution can be reiterated.

G. Technical advice to the Maharashtra State Archives for construction of modern Archival Building.

(7) Resolution by Shri H.L. Gupta

"It is resolved(suggested) that the Director of National Archives be requested to look into the problems of space and preservation arrangements in those Archives and take initiative in rendering expert technical advice to the Maharashtra State Government for providing a well-equipped modern building with full scientific arrangements for the preservation of the Archival wealth as a priority measure."

Explanatory Note:

This resolution is based on an alarming newspaper report of the Hindustan Times Correspondent, published in the Hindustan Times of September 1, 1976, indicating the insufficient and improper housing condition of the State Papers in Maharashtra Archival repositories. In that report it is mentioned that rare books, state papers and documents of immense historical value in Maharashtra face a serious risk of damage and decay. These records are kept at several places such as the Bombay Archives, Pune Archives and Kolhapur Archives and comprise millions of documents pertaining to the modern period ranging from the 17th to the 20th century.

The Estimates Committee of the Maharashtra State Legislature has taken cognizance of this fact and has asked the Government to take early steps to provide a well-equipped modern building to preserve the historical heritage insulated from the ravages of time.

The object of moving this resolution is to reinforce the need for better building, better equipment and better preservation arrangements for housing and preservation of historical records. Enquiries may be made from the Director of the records repositories mentioned in the resolution and if the newspaper report is found authentic my resolution may be placed before the Commission with a view to drawing the attention of the Maharashtra State Government to provide suitable and adequate space for housing their records in their various repositories.

Standing Committee's views:

Although its objectives are laudable, this resolution cannot be supported in its present form, since it would be constitutionally inappropriate for the Director of Archives, National Archives of India, to intervene officially in the

matter without being invited to do so by the State Archives concerned. However, technical advice will be rendered if request is made.

H. Provision of special grants for the Development of State Archives

(8) Resolution by Madhya Pradesh Government

"Resolved that the Commission should impress upon the Central Government to provide special grants for the development programmes of State Archives on priority basis."

Explanatory Note:

The resolution itself is a self explanatory. Needless to say that the Commission in their several meetings have felt for such an urgent need and for this purpose a committee was also set up under the Chairmanship of the Director, National Archives of India. This Committee had a long discussion with the Planning Cell which also brought fruits for the development of Archives in the country.

The various States like Madhya Pradesh, Haryana who have recently organised the State Archives have their own problems or some of the States who intend to organise the Archives have their own limitations. It is hardly necessary to say that the State Governments are leaving no stone unturned to organise the State repositories but the limited resources prevent them to provide more funds to the Archives. Therefore, it would in the fitness of the things that the Central Government should provide on top priority basis some special grants for the State Archives which has recently been set up. The various problems such as buildings, equipments etc., can be tackled only if such grant is made available to the State Archives.

Standing Committee's views:

The resolution draws attention to a very real problem and should be supported. Similar recommendation has been made by the Committee on Record Management (Para 2.12).

I. Introduction of National Readers Cards

(9) Resolution by Shri J.K. Jain:

"Resolved that a system of 'National Readers Cards' be introduced as it would facilitate and encourage genuine research in the country".

Explanatory Note:

The idea of issuing International Readers Cards has been attracting the attention of the archivists for the last many years but without success. Since the idea in itself is quite noble and practical at least at the National level, it is high time that an honest trial is given in our Country. The system besides saving a lot of time of the scholars in entering into a similar correspondence for seeking permission with many Archival Institutions of the Country, will also bring a regular coordination between the National Archives and the various State Archives. At the same time it will pave the way in bringing a uniformity in research rules and 'open period' of records, etc. for the researchers. Here it may be added that initially these cards could be issued to the University teaching staff and registered research scholars; and the cards could be issued both by the Director of National Archives as well as the Directors of State Archives of the Country.

Standing Committee's views:

The proposed resolution should be very welcome to all archivists as well as bonafide users of archives. The proposal to issue International Readers Cards, which would secure to scholars access to the archival repositories of every country joining the scheme, was recommended by the International Council on Archives some ten years ago, and was mentioned by the Director of Archives, National Archives of India, even in September, 1976 in his paper presented before the 8th International Congress on Archives at Washington, D.C., U.S.A. The wording of the resolution, however, might require some minor changes to make clear the applicability of the National Readers Cards to all the State Archives and to the National Archives of India.

Conspectus of action on previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission

(38th to 44th session)

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I. Resolution of the 38th Session, Jadavpur (Calcutta), 16-18 November,1967

Further to the information placed before the Commission at its 44th and earlier sessions on the resolutions and recommendations of the 38th to 44th sessions, replies received from the State Governments, Universities, Learned Institutions and others are summarised below:

Resolution X: The Commission resolves that all necessary steps be taken by the Regional Records Survey Committees and the State Archives to find out which business houses or private businessmen are willing to make their records available for research, prepare a preliminary inventory of such records, and help in their arrangement and preservation.

Tamil Nadu: The resolution will be referred to the Regional Committee of Historical Records after its reconstitution.

II. Resolutions of the 40th Session, Madras, 18-20 February, 1970.

Resolution VIII: The Commission resolves that to facilitate the consultation of records preserved by them the Records Repositories of the State Governments be requested to prepare and publish consolidated guides to their pre-Independence records.

Jammu & Kashmir: The scheme is still under the consideration of the Government.

Punjab: A guide to the records available in this repository has already been prepared and copies of the same have been sent to several academic institutions.

Karnataka: Action is being taken to prepare consolidated guides pertaining to the pre-Independence records.

Resolution IX: To facilitate genuine research work at the State Archives, the Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments to dispense with the scrutiny of excerpts taken by research scholars from all 'open' records.

Jammu & Kashmir: Historical Research Rules have not been amended as yet and the suggestion will be considered as and when the amendments in th existing rules are made.

Punjab: Excerpts taken by the research scholars from the relevant records are not scrutinised.

Karnataka: The resolution has been noted and will be considered.

Resolution XIII: The Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments that the records of the National Movement, especially from 1885-1947, in the custody of the offices of the Home Department and other Offices/ Departments and quasi-Government Offices may be transferred to the State Archives and thrown open for research where this has not been done already.

Bihar: The State Government have stated that bona fide research scholars may continue under the prescribed research rules of the State Archives to study the records, and they will also be permitted to take extract from these records.

Karnataka: The matter is being taken up with the State Government.

Punjab: The Government in the Education Department have been requested to issue instructions in this regard to Home Department and other Government Offices.

Resolution XV: The Commission resolves that the National Archives be requested to procure and preserve copies of Annual Administration Records of the States and reports of various Committees and Commissions published by the State Governments and the Centrally Administered Areas for the use of research scholars.

National Archives of India: The National Archives of India have informed that they have received the Annual Administration Reports during 1976 from the following State Governments and Union Territories: (1) Delhi, (2) Bihar, (3) Gujarat, (4) Haryana, (5) Kerala, (6) Madhya Pradesh, (7) Maharashtra, (8) Karnataka, (9) Andaman & Nicobar, (10) Orissa, (11) Punjab, (12) Pondicherry, (13) Tamil Nadu and (14) Uttar Pradesh.

Resolution XVII: The Commission notices that the State Archives in a number of States are issuing Indexes, Lists, Calendars and other invaluable record publications, but the number of copies printed is very limited. The Commission recommends that the institutions concerned should print not less than 500 copies, and the same should be supplied free of cost to all universities, libraries, post-graduate centres of historical research, learned institutions, and premier libraries.

Assam: No State Archives has yet been set up in Assam and as such the present Record Office has not taken up publication of any lists calendars etc. However a "Descriptive List" of the records is under preparation.

Punjab: Whenever any archival publication is brought out the resolution will be kept in view.

Karnataka: No publication of this type is brought out by the Karnataka State Archives. However the resolution is noted for future guidance.

III. Resolutions of the 41st Session Trivandrum 9-11 October, 1971.

Resolution III: The Indian Historical Records Commission places on record its appreciation of the steps taken by the National Archives of India during the last two years for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of the records in its custody. But, as the volume of records for which the reference media has to be prepared is very large the Government of India is urged to sanction adequate staff for this essential aspect of Archives Administration. Similar programmes may be taken up by State Archives Departments also which face the same problem.

Jammu & Kashmir: The scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Rajasthan: Keeping in view the resolution the State Archives has published Descriptive Lists of various important historical records available in the Archives.

Karnataka: Action will be taken after recruitment of required staff which is under way.

Resolution IV: Resolved that in the interest of completeness of official records of historical value, weeding of records at the various levels by untrained persons be stopped.

Jammu & Kashmir: The recommendation has been noted.

Nagaland: Action is being taken.

Karnataka: Noted for future guidance.

Resolution V: The Commission is of the view that it is imperative to take all necessary steps to ensure the proper maintenance and preservation of all Public Records in the States whether current semi-current or non-current. The State Governments are therefore requested to implement urgently the recommendations already made by the Commission (Vide Resolution VII and XIII of the 38th Session) and (i) transfer all District Records more than 30 years old to the control of the State Archives and (ii) declare their Directors of State Archives to be inspecting authority for the non-current records of the State Offices at all levels. as also of the local bodies viz. Municipalities Zilla Parishads etc. in the State.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Government has already been approached in this behalf and reply is awaited.

Karnataka: Instructions are already provided in most of the manuals of the respective departments regarding the proper maintenance and preservation of all public records. In respect of other newly created departments the State Archives is pursuing them to frame rules and guide them in the matter of framing of weeding schedules.

(i) The question of transferring 30 years old records will be taken up as soon as functionally designed accommodation is made available. The matter is already under consideration.

(ii) The Director of Archives is vested with the power to inspect non-current records of the State Archives at all levels - Municipalities, Zilla Parishads in the State.

West Bengal: The matter is under consideration of the State Government.

Delhi: The Delhi Archives has just been established and as and when it will begin to function properly, the records which are 25 years old will be taken over for proper preservation. The question of declaration of Director of State Archives to be the inspecting authority for non-current records will be taken up at appropriate time.

Resolution VI: The Commission reiterates its recommendation earlier made in Resolution VI of the Research and Publication Committee at its 27th meeting, and urges that Archives Departments in India should take early steps to compile lists of their old publications which are still in demand and try to get limited number of their copies reprinted.

Jammu & Kashmir: Recommendations have been noted.

Karnataka: Resolution is noted and action will be taken when need for printing arises.

Delhi: The Archives repository has recently been established in Delhi, hence the question of reprinting of its old archival publications does not arise.

Resolution VII: This Commission appeals to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc. to allow bonafide research scholars to consult their documents for research purposes, and the scholars who are allowed access to these records may, if necessary, voluntarily prepare the lists of these records.

Resolution VIII: This Commission appeals to the authorities maintaining the records of the Temples, Maths, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras etc. to ensure their proper preservation, and if possible, to deposit these documents with the various Archives or Learned Institutions for safe custody.

Karnataka: The matter will be taken up and pursued with the Government in Revenue Department.

Delhi: Appeal was sent to various religious institutions in this behalf and suggested to deposit their papers with the Archives by way of gift, loan or terms mutually agreed to, to ensure their future safety.

Resolution XI: The Commission places on record its appreciation of the effective and energetic steps taken by its Secretary in implementing some of its important recommendations, such as those concerning the preparation of the Manual of Archives, and the publication of records pertaining to Partition and Transfer of Power, and the compilation of reference media. It also approves of the policy of issuing cyclostyled publications, particularly the reference media to records, with a view to facilitating research. Similar steps may also be taken by the State Directors of Archives.

Jammu & Kashmir: The recommendations have been noted and implementation would be carried out as and when the staff and funds for this purpose are provided.

Karnataka: The Manual of Archives is under compilation.

Resolution XII: Keeping in view the enormous problems created by the evergrowing bulk of records, the Commission appreciates the lead presently given by the National Archives of India and the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of India, in the sphere of management of the records of the Union Government and their time bound appraisal. It also notes with satisfaction the steps taken by some State Government for weeding of their non-essential records. The Commission urges all those State Governments and Union Territories which have not yet initiated such a programme on a regular basis to do so urgently with a view to economising in the long run on the upkeep and preservation of their permanent records. The concerned governments may consult, if necessary, the National Archives of India for this purpose.

Delhi: The matter regarding time bound appraisal of the records of this administration has already been taken up and necessary instructions have already been issued to the authorities concerned in this behalf.

Resolution XIII: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to all the State Archives to provide facilities for the supply of microfilms or typed copies of 'Open' records to bonafide research scholars on payment without any undue delay.

Gujarat: The copies of records at the Central Record Offices, Baroda and Rajkot are being supplied to all at the rates fixed by the Government from time to time and that the research scholars in the State are permitted to make their own arrangements to take copies of the portion required by them from the 'Open' records.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Department does not possess these facilities on account of non-availability of microfilming apparatus and staff.

Karnataka: The resolution is kept in view. Photostat copies are being supplied on payment at the rates fixed by the Government without delay.

Resolution XIV: Resolved that the State Governments be requested to open Regional, or Divisional Archives in each Commissioner's Division, where the non-ephemeral records of all the Collectorates etc. in the Division may be collected and preserved under the overall control and supervision of the Director of the State Archives. This is absolutely essential for the purpose of not only preservation of papers, but also for promoting the writing of regional history.

Delhi: There is no need to establish Regional/Divisional Archives in Delhi as it consists of a single District.

Resolution XV: Resolved that the Commission recommends to the authorities of the National Archives of India and of the State Archives to make available to bonafide research scholars residential accommodation at reasonable rates. Furthermore, it recommends for the consideration of the Ministry of Education at the Centre and in the States to put up hostels which will cater to the needs of such research scholars.

National Archives of India: The bonafide research scholars can avail themselves of Sapru House Hostel accommodation at reasonable charges. Five research scholars were provided accommodation facilities there during 1975-76.

Karnataka: The resolution is noted and action will be taken in due course after the department constructs its own building.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Government has been requested in this behalf and reply therefrom is awaited.

IV. Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji (Goa) 5-7 January, 1973.

Resolution II: The Commission reiterates Resolution II of its 33rd Session held in March 1958 recommending that edited texts or calendars of unpublished manuscripts, records or documents, when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus should be given the same recognition as original dissertations on arts or science subjects and should be regarded as equally worthy of consideration for the award of a Doctorate Degree. It was further resolved that the matter should be taken up, not only with the various Universities, but also with the Inter-University Board.

University of Poona: The University has accepted the resolution in principle.

Resolution IV: The Commission recommends that suitable notice be taken by the Government of India and the State Governments of the meritorious services of those who had carefully preserved private records, either by preserving those records themselves or by depositing them for safe custody in a properly organised Records Repository or a suitable Learned Institution.

National Archives of India: The National Archives of India has forwarded the names of those persons recommended by the State Governments (Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Maharashtra and Kerala) to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to issue meritorious Certificates in recognition of their service.

Tamil Nadu: The resolution is under consideration.

Bihar: One person and three institutions have been recommended in this behalf.

Maharashtra: Twenty persons have been recommended in this behalf.

Kerala: Three persons have been recommended in this behalf.

Resolution V: Resolved that all necessary and feasible steps be taken to save from destruction the balance sheets and other connected papers which are submitted by Indian business firms to the Registrars of Companies in various States.

Gujarat: The Government has decided not to accept resolution even in principle as the Registrar of Companies is an officer of the Central Government and the balance sheets and other documents are filed with him under central law.

Tamil Nadu: The Registrar of Companies is a Government of India Department. It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government may kindly issue suitable instructions to the Registrar of Companies to save from destruction the balance sheets and other connected papers which are submitted by Indian Business Firms to the Registrar of Companies in various States.

Resolution VI: Resolved that, keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of Intermediate Record Centres on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Records Centres should be fully manned by qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographical facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts etc. in their possession.

National Archives of India: Sanction for opening of one Record Centre with necessary staff has been received. The Centre has been set up at Jaipur and it has started functioning. Another Record Centre is proposed to be set up in 1977-78.

Punjab: A scheme for the opening of a regional repository at Jullundur was approved by the Punjab Government in 1974 under the 5th Five Year Plan. But the same has not so far been implemented due to the non-appointment of the staff to the various posts sanctioned therein though the cases for filling up these posts were sent by the Directorate to Government more than two years back.

Andhra Pradesh: This office has already taken action for establishing Intermediate Record Centre in the State. One such regional office has been established at Tirupati in December 1973 to centralize all the valuable records of the District Collectorates of ceded districts. It is

being manned by the qualified staff. The Government of Andhra has been addressed to sanction another regional office at Visakhapatnam for centralizing Circar district records. As soon as the government sanction is received, a regional office at Visakhapatnam will be established. Another Regional Office to centralize Telengana District Collectorate Records will be opened at Warangal during the next financial year.

Jammu & Kashmir: It is not possible to consider the proposal for setting up of Intermediate Records Centres at district level due to lack of funds. However, having repositories in existence at Divisional level viz. at Srinagar, Jammu and Ladakh, it is felt that it is premature to set up the proposed Records Centres at district level at this stage.

Karnataka: The department is working with a skeleton staff and as such the resolution will be considered after the technically qualified staff are recruited.

West Bengal: The decision in this matter will be communicated as soon as the question of taking over the control of the District and other Governmental records by the State Archives is finalized.

Gujarat: A proposal to bring the District Record Offices in the Saurashtra region under the administrative control of Archives is under consideration of the Government.

Resolution VII: Resolved that the Central and State Governments may be requested to throw open records relating to persons and parties involved in the political movements during pre-Independence days which were in the custody of the Central Bureau of Intelligence, the State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation for the use of Research Scholars.

Gujarat: The Gujarat Government has no objection to permit genuine research scholars to have access to the State Police Department and C.I.D. Records prior to 15th August, 1947 on certain conditions.

Tamil Nadu: The old newspapers and fortnightly reports containing political events are available in Tamil Nadu Archives have been classified as "confidential". But such records are thrown up for research only after scrutiny by the Commissioner of Archives. The records of persons and parties involved in political movement, in the custody of C.I.D. were destroyed due to efflux of time.

West Bengal: According to the existing policy of the Government the records under the custody of the Intelligence Bureau and Crimincal Investigation Department of the State cannot be thrown open to the researchers.

Punjab: The State Government has been requested to throw open records relating to persons and parties involved in the pre-Independence days in India.

Jammu & Kashmir: It is not possible for the State Government to implement the resolution at this stage.

Rajasthan: The Government have agreed to throw open the records upto 1945 but records of Police and C.I.D. are under the consideration of Government.

Karnataka: The Departments concerned will be addressed to take necessary action in this behalf.

Delhi: The records in question are inaccessible to bonafide research scholars as well as general public because they happen to be marked "Confidential" or "Secret" if they are more than 30 years old (sic). The administration is of the view that after 27 years of Independence it would be redundant to treat them as "Confidential" or "Secret" now. After appraisal these records would be thrown open to bonafide researchers with such restrictions as are necessary.

Resolution IX: Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under over-all supervision of the State Archives Services, records preserved by private bodies like maths, temples, churches, societies, libraries, museums, universities and learned institutions in their respective States.

Punjab: Unless all the 25 years old records of permanent value are retired either to the State Archives or regional repositories, the State Archives will not be in a position to bring under its supervision records of private bodies.

Andhra Pradesh: The State Government have been requested to issue orders for the enactment of law in this regard.

Jammu & Kashmir: The State Government have already been approached in this behalf.

Rajasthan: The matter is under consideration.

Karnataka: This matter has been taken up with the Government and request has been made to the Law Department to prepare a draft in this behalf.

West Bengal: The State Government does not consider it feasible at present to enact a law to bring under overall supervision of the State Archives records preserved by private bodies due to financial considerations. Moreover, the State Government is of the opinion that a uniform law in this respect embodying general principles enacted by the Government of India will be more effective than separate laws enacted by the different State legislatures.

Tamil Nadu: Necessary legislation on the administration of Archives in line with the recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation is yet to be introduced in this State.

Resolution XI: Resolved that all State Governments should evolve as early as possible a well articulated retirement policy for their records and prepare retention schedules for records at all levels in line with the rules of the Central Government.

Punjab: For evolving a well articulated retirement policy for records and for preparing their retention schedules in line with the rules of the Central Governments is still under consideration of the State Government.

Andhra Pradesh: Action is being taken to prepare retention schedules for Andhra Pradesh records at all levels in the line with the rules of the Central Governments as contained in the resolution cited.

Jammu & Kashmir: The steps are being taken to follow the directions as laid down in the policy resolution and retention schedule in view of the limitation of the State Government policy.

Nagaland: Action is being taken.

Karnataka: A well articulated retirement policy has already been laid down in the respective manuals and followed. These rules are in conformity with the rules of the Central Government.

West Bengal: The matter is under examination and decision of the State Government will be communicated in due course.

Resolution XII: The Commission notes with regret that, inspite of its earlier recommendations, vide Resolution No.IV of its 31st Session held in 1955 and Resolution No. 3(a) of the 36th Session held in 1961, the Government of India have not so far made arrangements for the manufacture of the Standard Quality Paper recommended by the ISI in consultation with the National Archives of India, with the result that the Union and States Governments, as well as others, were obliged to use low quality paper for their permanent records. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends that urgent measures be adopted, either for manufacturing this paper in India, or for importing it from abroad, as in the long run the use of quality paper for permanent records would not only prove more economical, but is absolutely essential, keeping in view the importance of these records for the future generations.

National Archives of India: The Ballarpur Industries Limited is processing Standard Quality Paper to meet our requirements and samples are awaited.

The annual approximate requirements indicated by the following States and Union Territories are given below:

Sr.No.	Name of the States	Annual requirements
1.	Central Government	1445 Metric Tonnes
2.	Andhra Pradesh	85 " "
3.	Gujarat	12.5 " "
4.	Haryana	5 " "
5.	Kerala	7 " "
6.	Punjab	382.50 " "
7.	Uttar Pradesh	720 " "

contd.

Sr.No.	Name of the States	Annual requirements
8.	Meghalaya	0.5 Metric Tonnes
9.	Nagaland	3 " "
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5 " "
11.	Manipur	0.2 " "
12.	Tripura	19 " "
13.	Bihar	674.5 "
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	"
15.	Madhya Pradesh	"
16.	Maharashtra	"
17.	Orissa	"
18.	Rajasthan	"
19.	Tamil Nadu	"
20.	Karnataka	"

Union Territories

1.	Goa Daman and Diu	2.5 Metric Tonnes
2.	Delhi	70 " "
3.	Mizoram	0.5 " "
4.	Chandigarh	0.2 " "
5.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.1 " "

Resolution XIII: Resolved that appropriate authorities be moved to direct their attention to the archives of the Municipal Corporations and other Local Bodies, who should be asked to ensure their preservation in properly organised Record Rooms to be looked after by suitable staff. Further resolved that these records be regularly appraised and proper lists or catalogues be prepared of the permanent records, which should be made available for research to bonafide scholars.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Karnataka: For the present this department does not possess the latest information with regard to Municipal Archives. The Municipalities have their own Retention Schedules. The Government in the municipal administration department is being approached to organise their archives as desired.

Tamil Nadu: General instructions have been issued in this regard.

Punjab: The Secretary, Local Self Government, Punjab was requested to issue instructions to all the Municipal Committees in the Punjab in regard to the proper preservation of their records and preparation of their reference media for the facilities of the research scholars. Punjab Government has also authorized the Director of Punjab State Archives to inspect the old records of the Municipal Committees and steps in this direction have already been taken by the Directorate.

Rajasthan: The matter is under consideration.

Delhi: The local bodies in Delhi have already been approached to organize their record rooms and preserve records with appropriate and adequate staff. Necessary action in this regard is already being taken by them.

Gujarat: The municipal authorities and local bodies have been requested to ensure the preservation of their records in the properly organized records rooms to be looked after by suitable staff and these records be regularly appraised and proper lists and catalogues be prepared and these should be made available for research to bonafide research scholars.

Pondicherry: The Archives is in initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolutions concerned with this Archives Department.

Nagaland: The Archives Department which is a Branch of the Directorate of Art and Culture is in its initial stage of reorganisation. The Department is not, therefore, in a position to implement all the resolutions passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission at its various sessions.

V. Resolutions of the 43rd Session held at Lucknow, 28-29 January, 1975.

Resolution II: The Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested to treat the National Archives of India Annexe as a functional building and to give top priority to its construction, which is absolutely essential for the National Archives of India to effectively discharge its responsibilities, and particularly to implement the Archival Policy Resolution which requires it to accept custody of billions of the non-current public records lying scattered and neglected in the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

National Archives of India: Design of the proposed Annexe to the National Archives of India has been approved and sanction of the Government of India for an expenditure of Rs. 2.22 crores for this work has since been received. Ministry of Works and Housing has been requested to arrange for early start of construction work.

Resolution III: The Commission is greatly perturbed over the reported large scale destruction of old public records in several States, notwithstanding the repeated recommendations of the Commission (vide Resolution No. II of 1925, Resolution No. VII of 1942, Resolution No.V of 1943, Resolution VI of 1951) and resolves that a Sub-Committee consisting of five Members of the Commission be constituted to investigate and report to the Standing Committee, within six months, on the following:

(a) the extent to which the above resolutions are being implemented;

(b) the period and the nature of records destroyed during the last two years;

(c) the qualifications and suitability of the staff engaged on appraisal of old records; and

(d) the steps which can be taken immediately to ensure to preservation of records of permanent value.

2. The Commission also recommends to the State Governments that no pre-1947 records be destroyed till the said Committee has submitted its report.

National Archives of India: The Record Management Committee held its final meeting in May, 1976 and submitted a comprehensive Report to the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Commission on 30th June, 1976. The Report has since been printed and circulated among the Members of the Commission.

In the general discussion of the Standing Committee that took place on the Report the Members agreed with most of the recommendations made by the Committee but they were not in favour of changing the basic structure of the Commission. Moreover, they felt that most of the functions proposed to be assigned to the National Archives Council could be very well be performed by the Standing Committee. They, however, recommended that the Report may be discussed at the next Session of the Commission before any final decision is taken on the various recommendations made by the Committee.

Resolution IV: "Resolved that every effort should be made to reactivise the Regional Records Survey Committees by seeking as far as possible the assistance of the Indian Council of Historical Research and the University Grants Commission through the Universities already represented on the different Regional Records Survey Committees.

The following states have reconstituted their Regional Records Survey Committees during 1976:-

(i) Andhra Pradesh, (ii) Jammu & Kashmir and (iii) Rajasthan.

The reconstitution of the Regional Records Survey Committees of the following States is under consideration of their respective governments:-(i)Karnataka, (ii) Kerala, (iii) Maharashtra and (iv) Tamil Nadu.

Resolution V: "Resolved that a Committee consisting of five to six Members be appointed to study the implementation of the 'Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972' and to make recommendations for enacting legislation regarding records of National Importance, which may be less than 75 years old."

National Archives of India: The resolution is under active consideration of the Government of India.

Resolution VII: "Resolved that a Correspondence Course in Archives Administration be conducted by the National Archives of India for the benefit of the members of the staff working in different offices of the Central and State Governments. The said course may be of one year duration and candidates who have completed at least one year service and are holding regular posts may be allowed to take up the Correspondence Course."

National Archives of India: The scheme has been sanctioned by the Government of India and the staff for the same sanctioned.

Recommendation: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to the Government of India and the State Governments the desirability of providing facilities in their respective Archival Departments for the microfilming of newspapers and other periodicals, current as well as old, at the request of the owners and proprietors concerned, and conserving one copy in the repository as a record of permanent historical value.

National Archives of India: A sub-Committee was constituted by the Government of India on 23rd June 1975. The Committee recommended that selection of important newspapers and periodicals, old and current, should be microfilmed on priority basis. Accordingly eight papers from different languages representing different regions of the country and seven papers from English were selected for obtaining requisite information in this regard.

Replies have been received from the following newspaper offices:

The newspapers issues of The Swadesh Mitran and The Tribune are being microfilmed by the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi. The Janmabhoomi and The Malayala Manorama have microfilmed copies of their newspapers.

The microfilm copies of The Deccan Herald and The Ananda Bazaar Patrika have been damaged.

The Statesman and The O'Heraldo have no microfilm copies of their issues.

VI. Resolutions of the 44th Session, Bikaner, 21-22 February, 1976.

Resolution II: To enable the people to appreciate the historical background of our contemporary national efforts towards a new system of land relations, the National Archives, the different State Archives, and the Universities and learned Institutions are requested to bring out monographs on relevant subjects, particularly to indicate the evolving pattern of land rights, together with specimens of the different land records at the village level in different parts of the country at different times. The Standing Committee of the Commission is requested to work out a phased programme and to coordinate the countrywide effort.

The Standing Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission decided to set up a Sub-Committee to examine the various aspects of the problem consisting of the following Members:-

1. Dr.D.P.Bhattacharya
2. Prof.J.S.Grewal
3. Shri P.C. Sen
4. Thiru M.K.Gomethagavelu
5. Shri S.C.Vaish
6. Shri S.A.I.Tirmizi ... Convener

Resolution III: Resolved that on behalf of the Indian Historical Records Commission, circulars in the form of appeals be sent to political leaders and men of eminence in different walks of life to preserve their private, demi-official or official correspondence for the benefit of the future.

The resolution was forwarded to the Government of India in the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and action is being taken by the Ministry.

Resolution IV: Keeping in view the great importance of the records extant in different Indian languages and in Persian, the Commission recommend the publication of selections from these records in extenso, with translations, annotations and critical introductions, for the convenience of scholars not familiar with the old languages and scripts in question. The Standing Committee of the Commission is requested to coordinate the programme and to indicate priorities.

The Standing Committee of the Commission was of the view that National Archives of India and the State Archives should formulate comprehensive schemes in order to bring out publications of selections from the records in Persian and different Indian languages available in the respective repositories. Such selections should be accompanied with English translations, annotations and critical introductions for the convenience of the scholars not familiar with the languages and scripts in which such records are couched. The schemes thus formulated may be placed before the Standing Committee in order to enable it to coordinate the programme and indicate priorities. The Committee further recommended that the National Archives of India should give a lead by introducing teaching of some of these languages and scripts in the Diploma Course.

Resolution V: The Commission notes with regret that many Union Territories and the following States have not yet set up their State Archives Departments: (1) Assam (2) Madhya Pradesh, (3) Meghalaya, (4) Himachal Pradesh, (5) Manipur, (6) Tripura, (7) Sikkim and (8) Nagaland. The Commission makes an earnest request to the authorities of all these States/Union Territories to set up their Archival Departments on modern scientific lines as early as possible. The National Archives of India is requested to extend all help and cooperation in this regard.

Meghalaya: Action has been taken to set up an Archival Repository in this States early.

Andaman and Nicobar: An expert of this Department visited those Islands to render technical advice for setting up of Archives there.

Manipur: The Government is considering the resolution.

Sikkim: The National Archives of India has rendered appropriate guidance for establishment of an Archival Repository in this State.

Tripura: The Government has agreed to set up Archives Department in the State.

Resolution VI: Resolved that the posts of the Director of Archives both at the Centre as well as in the States be filled up only by those who possess archival qualifications or have adequate experience of holding some responsible post in an archival repository of the country.

National Archives of India: The Government of India has accepted the Resolution.

Tripura: The Government of Tripura has not set up their own archival repository as yet. However, the resolution has been noted for future guidance.

Delhi: The resolution has been accepted in principle and necessary action will be taken accordingly as and when a Director is appointed.

Jammu and Kashmir: The resolution is being implemented.

Pondicherry: The resolution would be kept in view when the post of Director is sanctioned.

Sikkim: The State Government has approved the proposal to appoint an Archivist-Cum-Scientific Officer on deputation from National Archives of India to head the State Archives.

Madhya Pradesh: The Archives has been set up recently and services of two officers from National Archives of India have been obtained.

Bihar: The Government has agreed in principle to implement the resolution.

Uttar Pradesh: The Government has accepted the resolution.

Karnataka: The State Government is already implementing the resolution.

Rajasthan: The principle laid down in the resolution is being followed.

Tamil Nadu: The resolution would be considered as and when necessity arises.

Haryana: The work of State Archives is going on satisfactorily, so there is no necessity for any change.

West Bengal: The State Government have long since followed the principle embodied in the resolution.

Maharashtra: The post of Director of Archives in this State is made in accordance with the recruitment rules prescribed for the post.

Punjab: The resolution has been accepted in principle.

Resolution VII: Keeping in view the crucial role of Archivists in identifying and preserving important records on which all genuine historical research is based, and the consequent necessity of attracting competent and scholarly persons to this profession, the Government of India is requested to form a Committee headed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee and with representatives of Ministry of Finance, University Grants Commission, etc., as members, to recommend appropriate qualifications and pay scales for the different professional posts in the National Archives of India and the State Archives.

National Archives of India: The Government has placed an embargo on the revision of pay scales of Central Government employees whose pay scales have been revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. It was, therefore, felt that there was no need for the appointment of a Committee to study the proposed resolution.

The resolution was also placed before the Standing Committee of the Commission and it was of the opinion that while the question of qualifications had already been studied in depth by the Committee on Record Management, the other question regarding pay scales could not be meaningfully considered by any Committee appointed by the Standing Committee. The Committee, therefore, did not consider it necessary to set up a separate sub-committees for this purpose.

Resolution VIII: Resolved that an Oral History Record Office be established as a part of the National Archives whose purpose should be to record on tape and then transcribe the recollections of men who have played an important part in recent history as well as the reactions of those who have seen history made. The different State Archives should also take up this urgent work.

Delhi: The resolution has been accepted in principle and necessary action in this behalf would be taken accordingly.

Bihar: The resolution has been accepted in principle but immediate action in this behalf is not possible.

Andhra Pradesh: A scheme of tape recording of the reminiscence of important events in the lives and parts played by the various individual leaders who participated in the Freedom Movement in order to have permanent living record for posterity is being undertaken.

Punjab: There is a proposal to set up oral record office as a part of archives.

Maharashtra: The resolution would be recommended to the State Government for execution after receiving data about the minimum requirements in respect of staff and equipment etc.

Pondicherry: The Archives is in the initial stage of reorganisation and hence, the resolution cannot be implemented at this stage.

Tamil Nadu: The Government has accepted the resolution in principle.

Resolution IX: While congratulating the Union Minister for Education and Social Welfare for implementing several long awaited reforms, such as the promulgation of the Archival Policy Resolution and elevation of the National Archives of India as an Attached Office of the Ministry, the Commission reiterates the urgency of constructing the proposed Annexe to the National Archives of India as quickly as possible, as without it no significant improvement in the preservation and utilisation of Archives is now possible.

The design of the proposed Annexe to the National Archives of India has been approved and sanction of the Government of India for an expenditure of Rs.2.22 crores for this work has since been received. Ministry of Works and Housing has been requested to arrange for early start of construction work.

Resolution X: The 44th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission record their sincere thanks and appreciation of the services of the Chairman and Members of the Committee, set up by the Government of India for enacting legislation on archival records of national importance, in the preparation of the Report presented before the Commission.

The Commission accept the recommendations of the Committee for enacting legislation on records of national importance.

The Commission request the Government of India to enact suitable legislation and in this context draw special attention to clauses 2.1(a), 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17 and 21 of the enclosed draft bill, which may please be borne in mind in such legislative enactment.

Resolution X: The resolution is under consideration of the Government of India.